

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 112

Introduced by Assembly Member Soto

March 3, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to a Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 112, as introduced, Soto. Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia.

This measure would establish a Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia, consisting of specified members, to establish a public information and outreach campaign, work with other state and local agencies to promote fibromyalgia education and training programs for physicians and other health professionals, collaborate with a broad group of stakeholders, review current state policies and practices concerning treatment of fibromyalgia, develop a State Fibromyalgia Strategic Plan to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by September 1, 2009, and hold a Fibromyalgia Summit during the 2009–10 Regular Session of the Legislature .

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a significant health problem that
2 affects an estimated 6 to 8 percent of Americans and countless
3 thousands of Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a debilitating disease that fully
5 disables thousands of Californians with symptoms that are chronic
6 and include pain, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, migraine
7 headaches, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

1 WHEREAS, Many fibromyalgia patients suffer for an average
2 of five years before obtaining a correct diagnosis, which results
3 in a worsened condition that is more debilitating and more difficult
4 and expensive to treat; and

5 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is costly to California in both
6 economic and social terms. With respect to the economic cost, an
7 estimated \$1 billion in medical expenses, lost wages, and other
8 associated economic costs can be attributed to fibromyalgia. With
9 respect to the social cost, fibromyalgia impacts many families and
10 children, as demonstrated by the fact that 80 percent of
11 fibromyalgia patients are women; and

12 WHEREAS, Evidence indicates that the incidence of
13 fibromyalgia may be increasing at a rapid rate; and

14 WHEREAS, A legislative task force on fibromyalgia is
15 necessary to do all of the following:

16 (a) Promote public awareness of fibromyalgia, which is a
17 widespread, but poorly understood, disease.

18 (b) Promote understanding of the importance of early diagnosis
19 and proper treatment and management of fibromyalgia.

20 (c) Promote the delivery of appropriate information, programs,
21 and services regarding fibromyalgia.

22 (d) Encourage research into the nature, cause, and treatment of
23 fibromyalgia; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislative Task Force on
26 Fibromyalgia is hereby established, which shall consist of 15
27 members, as follows:

28 (a) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint to the task force
29 one Member of the Assembly from the majority caucus and one
30 Member of the Assembly from the minority caucus.

31 (b) The Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint to the task
32 force one Member of the Senate from the majority caucus and one
33 Member of the Senate from the minority caucus.

34 (c) The National Fibromyalgia Association shall appoint 11
35 members to the task force, including some members who have
36 demonstrated knowledge and an expertise in any of the following:

37 (1) Fibromyalgia research.

38 (2) Fibromyalgia prevention.

39 (3) Fibromyalgia educational programs.

40 (4) Fibromyalgia consumer needs; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the National Fibromyalgia Association shall
2 convene the first meeting of the task force to elect officers; and
3 be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the National Fibromyalgia Association shall
5 supply supporting staff to the task force; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That members of the task force shall not receive any
7 compensation for serving on the task force; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the task force shall perform various functions
9 regarding fibromyalgia, including, but not limited to, the following:

10 (a) Establishing a public information and outreach campaign
11 targeting women between 20 and 50 years of age, that includes
12 appropriate educational material aimed at promoting early
13 diagnosis and treatment, preventing complications, improving
14 quality of life at home and in the workplace, and addressing mental
15 health and disability issues of fibromyalgia patients.

16 (b) Working with other state and local agencies to promote
17 fibromyalgia education and training programs for physicians and
18 other health professionals.

19 (c) Collaborating with a broad group of stakeholders, reviewing
20 current state policies and practices concerning treatment of
21 fibromyalgia, and developing a State Fibromyalgia Strategic Plan
22 for 2010 to 2020, inclusive. The plan shall be submitted to the
23 Governor and the Legislature by September 1, 2009.

24 (d) Holding a Fibromyalgia Summit during the 2009–10 Regular
25 Session of the Legislature to make public the findings and progress
26 of the Legislative Task Force on Fibromyalgia; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the task force is authorized to use existing
28 resources to support its activities, but should be allowed to solicit
29 funding from public and private foundations, and make use of
30 available federal funds; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.